(v) The targets could not be achieved due to delays in Land Acquisition and shifting of utilities in some road projects and tardy implementation by contractors as well.

(vi) In some projects, the overall progress was also affected due to change in scope of work at an advanced stage.

Performance of road contractors

1223. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been poor performance by certain contractors in the laying of roads by National Highways Authority of India;

(b) if so, the action that has been taken against those contractors; and

(c) the mechanism that has been worked out to ensure proper performance and timely completion of work by contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seven contracts have been terminated and seventeen contractors have been declared as "non-performers" and debarred from biding in future contracts of NHAI.

(c) The steps taken to expedite the work are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to expedite the completion of the Projects under Execution by National Highways Authority of India

(i) The contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants/Independent Engineers, Project Directors, National Highways Authority of India officials at Headquarters.

(ii) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc.

(iii) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-Ministerial and Central-States issues such as land acquisition,

utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of road over bridges etc.

(iv) To expedite the construction of road over bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with the Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited.

Funds collected for road infrastructure

1224. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 1465 crores, out of Rs. 4526 crores, collected specifically for road instrastructure, in the form of additional excise and customs duties levied on petrol,.during 2000-01 to 2004-05, lies unutilised by some of the bigger States;

(b) if so, the details of accruals of the specific levies, the extent of utilisation and reasons for under-utilisation of these Central funds, State-wise; and

(c) the fresh plans drawn up to speed up the pace of upgradation and/or creation of additional road infrastructure to utilise these available funds, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The total unutilized amount upto 31.03.2005 of the Central Road Fund (CRF) earmarked for the State roads is Rs. 1606.18 crores. As per provisions of Central Road Fund Act, 2000, funds accrued to CRF are non-lapsable in nature.

(b) State-wise details of accruals of Central Road Fund and utilization are annexed as Statement (See below). The release of funds from CRF depends on the utilization of the released amount and the progress of works approved on the basis of the proposals submitted by the respective State Governments and implemented by them.

(c) This Department's guidelines to the States specify that such CRF works are to be completed within a period of 2 years. State Governments are regularly requested to increase the pace of the progress of CRF works and the progress of utilization of funds from CRF is monitored regularly.